

hb1442 crossover.pdf

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MARYLAND JUDICIAL COUNCIL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senate Judicial Proceedings Committee
FROM: Legislative Committee
Suzanne D. Pelz, Esq.
410-260-1523
RE: House Bill 1442
Juveniles – Truancy Reduction Pilot Programs - Report
DATE: March 17, 2025

The Judiciary fully supports truancy courts. Much of what truancy courts do is address the social, mental health, and other very personal issues that cause children to be unable to attend school regularly. The Judiciary notes that the successes of truancy court in addressing those issues are not necessarily addressed by the questions to be studied in the reporting requirements established in this bill. The bill's approach also would appear to require access to confidential school information. The Judiciary discussed possible amendments (below) to the reporting requirements of this legislation with the Sponsor who was amenable to such changes. With the new reporting language, the Judiciary believes meaningful information could be gathered informing the General Assembly and Baltimore City on the value of a truancy program in Baltimore City.

(B) THE REPORT REQUIRED BY THIS SECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

- (1) THE NUMBER OF PROGRAMS ESTABLISHED UNDER THIS SUBTITLE;
- (2) THE NUMBER OF CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN EACH PROGRAM;
- (3) INFORMATION ON OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN PARTICIPATING IN EACH PROGRAM; AND
- (4) INFORMATION ON ANY CHANGES RECOMMENDED TO IMPROVE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE PROGRAMS.

cc. Hon. Mark Edelson
Judicial Council
Legislative Committee
Kelley O'Connor